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animals as possible, in preference to those of the short haired kinds? and is it not an object of great national concern to obtain as many varieties of these wool-bearing animals as can be got, in order to make accurate trials of their respective qualities, to ascertain in what respects they would prove beneficial or hurtful? We see by experience that the natives of Madagascar have reared no other sheep but the naked breed till this hour; and probably they believe either that there are no wool-bearing animals of that kind existing, or that they would not live in their country. We in Britain have never *till now* believed it was possible to have a wool-bearing goat; and even while I write supported by such facts, where is the man who would not laugh at me as a visionary, were I to talk of rearing wool-bearing cattle in place of the naked breeds we have hitherto propagated?

N°. XVII.

Later Communication by the Author on this Subject, with a Sample taken from the Fleece of a Sheep brought from Jamaica to England.

THIS sheep forms a distinct variety altogether different from any other I have ever seen. The hair is a substance sui generis, and is as different from the *kemps*, or stichet hair of Europe, as from the long tough hair of the Russian and other hairy breeds. The wool too is as different from other sheep's wool as the hair; it is *finer* than any other, not excepting the Shetland breed; though I would suspect it is scarcely so soft. This affords the most convincing proof that ever was given of the prevalence of *breed* above climate, and the

the absurdity of those opinions we have all heard repeated thousands of times, of wool being converted into hair in the West Indies.

From a comparison of this with other facts I am perfectly satisfied that the varieties of this class of animals, possessing very distinct qualities inseparably connected with *breed*, are much greater, and infinitely more diversified than has hitherto been suspected. The *softness* of the Shetland wool is a peculiarity inseparable from it, insomuch that in the *coarsest* kinds of stockings made of this wool, which I have bought as low as four pence a pair, of a sufficient size for the largest man, I could undertake to distinguish them at the first *by the feel*, for their superior softness even above the finest Spanish wool.

Nº. XVIII.

An easy and accurate Method of adjusting the Glasses of Hadley's Quadrant, on Land for the Back-Observation, by ROBERT PATTERSON, in a Letter to Dr. DAVID RITTENHOUSE, President of the Society.

April 18th, 1794.

SIR,

Read April
18, 1794.

THERE are few if any instruments of modern invention, of more extensive use in the measuring of angles, than that invented by our countryman, Mr. Godfrey, but which has unjustly got the name of Hadley's quadrant.

I have however often regretted, that for want of some easy and accurate method of adjusting the glasses for the back-observation, practicable on land, and applicable to the *common octant*, this instrument was still so much limited